

Central Falls School District Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
March 11, 2014 at 6 PM
Ella Risk Library

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call- Chair Anna Cano Morales called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM. Present were Sonia Grace, Ana Cecilia Rosado, Stephanie Gonzalez, and Hugo Figueroa. Diosa Martinez was absent. Carlos Tobon arrived at 6:08 PM.
- II. Pledge
- III. Approval of the meeting minutes of February 25, 2014 - A motion to approve the minutes of February 25 was made by Ms. Grace, seconded by Ms. Gonzalez. Motion carried (5,0)
- IV. Approval of bills – Grants and General Budget and Facility Improvements - A motion to approve the payment of bills was made by Ms. Gonzalez, seconded by Mr. Tobon. Motion carried (6,0)
- V. Approval of personnel actions including any new appointments, rescissions, resignations, recalls, and retirements- A motion to approve the personnel actions was made by Ms. Rosado, seconded by Ms. Gonzalez. Dr. Gallo explained that Ms. Coleman requested a leave of absence prompting the recall of Ms. Bonilla, Sara Cavanaugh to be appointed to the position of math and special education, and Ms. Romeo to be appointed as special education PK. Motion carried. (6,0)
- VI. Presentation of the School Calendar 2014-2015 for approval – A motion to approve the 2014-2015 School Calendar was made by Ms. Rosado, seconded by Ms. Gonzalez. The Trustees discussed the dates for vacations and professional development with Dr. Gallo. Each date was highlighted to emphasize the break periods and the use of the primary election day for professional development. The motion carried. (6,0)
- VII. Presentation and discussion of the ramification of the integration of special education students- Dr. Gallo spoke about the meaning of integration and the trending of education toward the full integration of all students into regular education classes. The Meeting Street School program was presented as a fully embraced model, one that CFS could emulate. Dr. Gallo noted that Ruth Gallucci and David Sienko from RIDE are expected to come to present to the Trustees in April where they will review and inform everyone about the culture shift toward full integration across all schools and all grades. In the meantime, Dr. Gallo spoke about the reorganization of the grade levels in the school that could

be utilized to welcome the integration of classes and that would allow space for a growing enrollment. The plan that was delivered encompassed the shifting of the 7th and 8th grades to the high school creating a 7-12 environment where all teachers and support staff presently assigned to the 7th and 8th grades would join the high school staff. It was noted that this was indeed the configuration of the building many years ago. The space at Calcutt created by this move would allow for Calcutt to become an elementary/intermediate school where grades 4, 5, and 6 would be housed. These classes would follow an elementary schedule. Teachers would teach all subjects, requiring an elementary certification. Ela Risk would become a PK -3 fully integrated school, Veterans, a K-3 school and Robertson a PK-1 school. This would free up the Hunt school building to invite Head Start into the district so that more PK children could benefit from formal education. The building could also be used as a parent center or a PD center. The schools would not give up the building because the district believes enrollment would grow under this plan and the building would be needed again as PK and K classrooms. After much discussion, the Trustees endorsed this plan clearing the way for Dr. Gallo to begin the public discussion and engagement of CF teachers, parents, and the students themselves.

VIII. The State's new Emergency Safety Planning Guide was noted. Dr. Gallo will synthesize the guide, meet with teams, and plan accordingly.

IX. Superintendent Comment- Dr. Gallo announced that three finalists for the position of Principal of Ella Risk School were expected to be selected for a second interview and invited the Trustees to participate in the second interviews.

Dr. Gallo brought the Providence Journal to the meeting to not the tireless effort of Deanna Camputaro and her dance students as highlight on Monday. Dr. Gallo noted the dance partnership with Brown University is flourishing.

X. Board Comment- Ms. Gonzalez informed the Trustees about the new Alumni Association and the institution of the Warrior Scholarship. Dr. Gallo noted the Peace conference held the past weekend at the high school and the introductory remarks about Warriors and the true meaning of the word, warrior as promulgated by the US Marine Corps as well as by the Lakota Native Americans.

Ms. Gonzalez also informed the Trustees of the URI Providence display of Women of Distinction which includes Ms. Camputaro, and Ms. Grant , along with Viola Davis.

Mr. Tobon informed everyone about an author and speaker, P. Mendosa who is inspirational whom he hopes to secure for the benefit of CFS students and teachers.

- XI. Public Comment- Jane Sessums spoke to the Board of the many changes and reorganizations within the district since 2006. Ms. Sessums stated there have 18 such reorganizations.
- XII. Executive Session - A motion to move into Executive Session pursuant to chapter 42-46-5(a)(2) to discuss certain matters that are the subject of collective bargaining and litigation, was made by Ms. Rosado, seconded by Ms. Gonzalez. A roll call was taken. All concurred.
- XIII. Next Scheduled Meeting: March 25, 2014 at 6 PM at the Ella Risk
- XIV. Adjournment - At 8:20 PM motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Rosado, seconded by Ms. Gonzalez.